## SELECTIONS

FROM THE

# VERNACULAR NEWSPAPERS

PUBLISHED IN THE PANJAB,

# NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES, OUDH,

CENTRAL PROVINCES, CENTRAL INDIA, AND RAJPUTANA, Received up to 16th May, 1887.

## POLITICAL.

The Hindustán (Kálákankar), in an article headed "Mahárája Dalíp Singh in Russia," published Mahárája Dalíp Singh. in its issues of the 8th, 10th, and 11th May, quotes the comments of the Pioneer and the Civil and Military Gazette on the Mahárája's going to St. Petersburg, and is surprised that the Anglo-Indian newspapers apprehend no danger from him. If he can do no harm, why was he stopped at Aden on his way to this country and forced to return to Europe? When the Mahárája was dissatisfied with his treatment and considered himself wronged, the British Government was not well advised in allowing him to leave British territory. The dispute regarding the delimitation of the Russo-Afghán frontier has not yet been settled, and the state of affairs in Kábul is very unsatisfactory owing to the rebellion of the Ghilzais. Now that the Mahárája has gone over to the Russian Government, it may at any time advance his claim to the Panjáb and declare war. Again, it should be observed that the Mahárája has not only returned to the Sikh religion but has also abandoned his wife and

Circulation, 165 copies. children. Moreover, the Sikhs of the Panjáb know very well that the Government of India never declared war against Mahárája Dalíp Singh; that the last Panjáb war was undertaken by the Government on his behalf, and that 20,000 of his troops fought with the British army, as stated by the Calcutta Statesman. Hence it is possible that the Panjábis may sympathize with the Mahárája and rebel against the British Government. The Hindustán thinks that the British Government committed a serious mistake in allowing him to go out of its control, and suggests that he should be conciliated and induced to return to England.

Circulation, 450 copies.

The Panjábí Akhbár (Lahore), of the 4th May, says that it appears from a London telegram The same. published in a late issue of the Pioneer, that Mabárája Dalíp Singh has gone to St. Petersburg. As his pension has been discontinued by the British Government, he cannot help applying to other powers for support. The Russian Government may grant him an allowance, but it must know very well that he will be of little use to it in a war with England. It is rumoured that the Mahárája has an agent at Panjdeh, who secretly sends information regarding the Central Asian affairs to the people at Lahore through The rumour is probably quite unfounded. All merchants. such rumours about the movements and doings of the Mahárája are spread by the Anglo-Indian newspapers. It is impossible that the Panjábis, who have so long enjoyed the blessings of British rule, should desire the re-establishment of Sikh rule. Even the Sikh Sardárs have no sympathy with Dalip Singh, and do not care at all for him.

Circulation, 450 copies. The Panjábí Akhbár (Lahore), of the 4th May, says that the situation in Afghánistan is becoming more and more critical every day. Besides the Ghilzais several other frontier tribes have rebelled and have sworn not to yield to the Amír. It is rumoured that General Ghulám Haidar Khán, who had been sent by Abdul Rahmán to quell the revolt, has been killed, and

that the Amír has resolved to retire to Ghazni. This shows that His Highness has been much frightened. Civil and Military Gazette says that there is still hope that the Amír will be able to hold his own against the rebels, but that if he is defeated, the British and Russian Governments will not fight with each other, but will jointly put a stop to the civil war and make over the kingdom to a trustworthy and influential Sardár. If the St. Petersburg Government were allowed a voice in settling the Kábul difficulty, a rupture would no doubt be avoided for the present. But the measure would be injurious to British prestige. As the British Government has already expended some millions sterling on Afghánistan in order to maintain paramount influence there, it should not allow the Muscovite to interfere in Kabul affairs. At all events, Kandahar should be occupied. Had Abdul Rahmán been prevented from oppressing and tyrannizing over his subjects, no rebellion would have occurred in Afghanistan. (The Azád, Lucknow, of the 13th May, advises the Government of India to refrain from interfering in the Kábul civil war, but is of opinion that the Government should occupy Kandahar as soon as a favourable opportunity presents itself.)

The Subodh Sindhu (Khandwá), of the 4th May, adverting to the rebellion of the Ghilzais, says that the Amír is said to have applied to the Government of India for aid. There is, however, reason to fear that if the British Government helps him, the Russians may espouse the cause of the rebels. Hence the Sindhu is of opinion that, in order to prevent an immediate war with Russia, the Government of India should refrain from interfering in the civil war in Afghánistan.

Circulation, 200 copies.

The Hindustán (Kálákankar), of the 15th May, regrets that the Afghán policy of the Government of India has been characterised by great fickleness. Sometimes the Government has made friends with the Amír and sometimes with the people in Afghánistan, and sometimes it has declared war against

Circulation, 165 copies. both of them. The rebellion of the Ghilzais has now reduced Abdul Rahmán to great straits, and the Government of India does not know what to do. It would seem that the Amír himself is unable to quell the insurrection, while the Government of India hesitates to assist him, lest its interference may precipitate war with Russia. The Hindustán is of opinion that the British Government had better annex Afghánistan and have done with it.

Circulation, 200 Copies The Alam-i-Taswir (Cawnpore), of the 13th May, adverting to the civil war in Afghánistan,
says that the Government of India
cannot do better than accede to the wishes of the Ghilzais
and release Yakúb Khán. If Abdul Rahmán is defeated,
the Russians are sure to send Aiyúb Khán to Afghánistan.

Circulation, 200 copies.

The Alam-i-Taswir (Cawnpore), of the 6th May, regrets to Delimitation of the say that it appears from a London Russo-Afghán frontier. telegram of the 3rd idem that the dispute regarding the delimitation of the Russo-Afghán frontier is not likely to be amicably settled. Hence the despatch of the Boundary Commission involved a heavy cost in men and money to this country in vain.

### NATIVE STATES.

Circulation, 180 copies.

The Najmu-l-Akhbár (Etáwah), of the 13th May, is Appointment of a successor to Sir Salár Jang. appointed Nawáb Bashíru-l-daula his Prime Minister in place of Sir Salár Jang, and that the appointment has been approved by the Supreme Government. The Nawáb is an able man and is one of the highest noblemen at Haidarabad, There is reason to hope that he will acquit himself well.

The Najmu-l-Akhbúr (Etáwah), of the 13th May, says that it has always been opposed to the appointment of European Prime Ministers in native states. But when Colonel Ward was made Prime Minister in Bhopál, and his administration was highly praised by the Anglo-Indian newspapers, the Najm

was induced to change its opinion and, indeed, recommended the appointment of a European Prime Minister in Káshmír. The high praises bestowed on Colonel Ward, however, turn out to have been exaggerated and false. It would seem that the people are not well satisfied with his administra-The Pioneer states that the officials, dismissed by him, tion. are intriguing against him and endeavouring to create illfeeling between him and the Begam. The fact is that Colonel Ward desires to exercise his authority even over the Princess herself. His appointment has not been a success, and consequently the Najm adheres to its former opinion that European Prime Ministers are not suited to Native States. The Begam has only herself to thank for the appointment of Colonel Ward as her Prime Minister. As he is a European, she cannot easily dispense with his services. She should leave the entire management of affairs to him, and spend her time in the company of her husband. If she interferes much with the Prime Minister she is sure to be dethroned.

The Shahna-i-Hind (Meerut), of the 8th May, complains that since the death of the late Mahá-rája of Gwalior great mal-administration has prevailed in the State. The Council of Regency has been making a very improper use of the public funds. Large

tion has prevailed in the State. The Council of Regency has been making a very improper use of the public funds. Large rewards have been uselessly granted to officials, and the members have increased the pay of their friends and relatives. Thefts and robberies have of late frequently occurred. There is wide-spread dissatisfaction in the State with the present Government. The Shahna urges that both the Prime Minister and the Members of the Council should be dismissed, and more competent men should be appointed in their place with the consent of the widows of the late Mahárája, and that the Council should not be allowed to issue any orders until they have been approved by the

The Aftáb-i-Panjáb (Lahore), of the 6th May, says that

Mahárája Holkár's visit Mahárája Holkár was to leave Bomto England.

bay for England on the 27th April
to attend the celebration of Her Majesty's Jubilee. The

Maháránis.

Circulation, 120 copies.

Circulation, 500 copies. cost of his visit has been estimated at 26 lakhs of rupees. It is surprising that a shrewd officer like Sir Lepel Griffin should have sanctioned such a large expenditure for the purpose. Obviously His Highness will derive no advantage from his journey commensurate to the cost. It will be remembered that when His Highness formerly applied to the late Mahárája for permission to visit England, submitting a statement showing the expenses, aggregating two lakhs, which would be incurred, the late Mahárája refused permission saying that the money expended would be simply thrown away. Mahárája Holkár's visit to England at a cost of 26 lakhs is altogether unjustifiable.

## GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.

Circulation, 400 copies.

The Nyáya Sudhá (Harda), of the 11th May, says that the caste prejudices and social customs Sir Wiliiam Wedderburn. of the Hindús are no great hindrance to the growth of sympathy and friendship between the rulers and the children of the soil, as has been supposed by some persons. Sir William Wedderburn, of the Bombay Civil Service, who so greatly won the good will and sympathy of the people did not adopt Hindu religion, nor did his Hindu friends ever take their wives with them to his house on occasions of visits to him, nor did they ever dine with him at the same table. The secret of his popularity was that he mingled with natives on equal terms, and was always auxious to promote their welfare. He was opposed to government by the sword, and thought that the good will of the people was the best guarantee for the permanent continuance of British Rule in this country. He was indefatigable in his efforts to encourage the spread of female education and to improve the condition of the poor peasantry. He was a friend of high education and cordially sympathised with the local self-government scheme. If other European officers followed his noble example, the natives would be very grateful to them, and the foundation of British rule in this country would be strengthened. Sudhá then states that Sir William Wedderburn's retirement has created a deep feeling of sorrow among the native

community in Bombay. The Bombay Times and other newspapers of that class are much annoyed at the honour done him by the natives of Bombay and Poona on the eve of his departure.

The Azád (Lucknow), of the 13th May, is glad to say

Pay of Maulvi Muhammad Husain, Assistant Director of the Department of Agriculture and Commerce. that Maulvi Muhammad Husain has lately been confirmed in the post of Assistant Director of Agriculture and Commerce. The way in which he

has been treated by Government is, however, little to the credit of its justice and impartiality. On his return from England after completing his agricultural education there, he was made a Deputy Collector, but was appointed to officiate as Assistant Director. He received Rs. 441-10-3 a month on account of pay and acting allowance, but he was paid only second class travelling allowance although he was entitled to the first class allowance. The notification confirming him in his appointment was written and signed on the 13th January, 1887, but it was not published in the local official Gazette till the 11th April. The question is why the publication of the notification was so long delayed. To crown every thing, his pay will now be only Rs. 384, while he was allowed Rs. 441 a month before his confirmation! The full pay of the appointment is Rs. 600, but he will get only 64 per cent. The Statutory Civilians receive two-thirds, the salaries allowed to the Covenanted Civilians, but it is not known on what ground the same rule has been extended to Maulvi Muhammad Husain. It may be hoped Sir Alfred Lyall's government will Mr. Ozanne, who obtained first reconsider the matter. class certificates only in four subjects, has been appointed Director of the Agricultural Department in Bombay on full pay, while the Maulvi, who obtained first class certificates in 13 subjects, has been made only Assistant Director in these provinces, and that on two-thirds the pay of the post. Obviously this is not just and fair.

Circulation, 240 copies. Circulation, 325 copies. A correspondent of the Masim-i-Agra, of the 7th May,

Acquittal of the European
soldier who shot a native natives are highly thankful to the
at Jhansi.

British Government for the many

great advantages it has bestowed upon them. It is however a matter for regret that European Judges allow themselves to be influenced by race feeling in mixed cases. Their misbehaviour is very injurious to the British reputation for justice and impartiality. It is surprising that the natives, who have given ample proofs of their loyalty, should be shot dead like beasts of prey by Europeans, and that the offenders should be allowed to escape scot-free by European Judges. The writer then quotes an extract from the Pioneer of the 31st March, giving an account of the trial and acquittal by court martial of a European soldier who was charged with having killed a peasant at Jhánsi, and says that the soldier stated before the court that, when be had shot a tame duck, mistaking it for a wild one, he was surrounded by a large crowd of villagers who demanded from him Rs. 2 as compensation, and that he offered them ten annas he had with him at the time. It is simply impossible that the villagers should have surrounded the soldier and demanded Rs. 2 from him. It is still more impossible that he should have understood them, and made himself intelligible to them. It is well known that even those European officers, who have passed the prescribed vernacular examination, cannot very readily understand native villagers. Again, it is impossible that the soldier should have been knocked down by the villagers. If he was thrown down, did he shoot lying on the ground? The High Court should send for and carefully examine the records of the case. It is high time to take steps with a view of preventing Europeans from killing the children of the soil.

Circulation, 500 copies.

A correspondent of the Aftab i-Panjab (Lahore), of the Jagir granted to Baba 6th May, says that in the afternoon Khem Singh, C.I.E. of the 29th April, the European and native friends of Sir W. G. Davies, Financial Commissioner, mustered strong at the railway-station to see him off. On

the eve of his departure Sir W. G. Davies and Mr. Young, Secretary to the Panjáb Government, told Bába Khem Singh Bedi, C.I.E., at the railway-station, that the Panjab Government had been pleased to grant him four tracts of land, 8,500 ghumaos or acres in area, in Pakpatan, Montgomery, where he already has a large landed property. This large accession to his estate will raise his income to Rs. 1,25,000 a year. The Aftab congratulates the Baba on receipt of this new jágír, and says that the Government could not have done anything better to increase its popularity among the Sikh community who hold him in very high respect. It is well known that Sir Charles Aitchison always took the Bába with him in his tours in the frontier districts where a large portion of the population are Sikhs. The Baba was a strong body-guard to him. One day when the Bába was encamped in a frontier district with Sir Charles, he received Rs. 2,000 worth of valuable presents from the Sikhs. Sir Charles was much struck at this, and told him that he was a king among his community. The jágír granted him by the Government will not only be a great stimulus to the loyalty of the warlike Sikhs, but will also secure the good wishes of the thousands of the sick, the lame, and the needy, on whose support he spends a large portion of his income, and whose blessings are more powerful than an army.

The Rafiq-i-Hind (Lahore), of the 14th May, is of opinion President of the Municipal Committee, Lahore. pointed President of the Lahore Municipal Committee. It is believed that the Deputy Commissioner does not like to be appointed to the post, nor is the Local Government in favour of his appointment. If so, General Black, Manager of the Panjáb Chiefs' College and late Military Secretary to the Local Government, who has lately been nominated for appointment as a Member of the Committee, should be made President. The Rafiq does not think that a native would be able to perform the duties of the office satisfactorily.

Circulation, 400 copies. The same paper publishes an Urdu translation of the Panjáb Government's Resolution, dated the 31st March last, discontinuing the system of selecting members of the Municipal Committee at Hoshiárpur by election on account of the misbehaviour of the Municipal Commissioners, and says that the proceeding of the Local Government is justifiable. It may be hoped the Municipal Boards at other places will take a warning from the case of the Hoshiárpur Board and behave themselves properly.

Circulation, 400 copies.

The Rafiq-i-Hind (Lahore), in its issues of the 7th and Replies of the Lieute. 14th May, comments on the replies nant-Governor of the Panjáb to the addresses of the public associations. of the new Lieutenant-Governor of the Panjáb to the addresses of welcome presented by the Indian Association, the Guru Singh Subba, the Khalsa Diwan, and the Anjuman-i-Islamia, and approves of the sentiments expressed by His Honor.

Circulation, 550 copies.

The Prayag Samachar (Allahabad), of the 14th May, complains that young District Magistrates, Joint Magistrates, and Deputy Magistrates are often guilty of high-handed and arbitrary proceedings, and urges that elderly men only should be appointed to the posts.

Circulation, 165 copies. to the Poori Temple case, says that it would seem that there are certain ceremonies connected with the worship of the idol at the temple which only the Rája of Khurda is competent to perform, and that there is a sacred place in the temple where only the Rája can enter. If so, the proposal of the Bengal Government to appoint a committee for the management of the temple would be considered by the Hindús as an unjust interference with their religion. Hence the management of the temple should be left to the Rája as before. As regards the complaint that the food, called maháprasád, sold by the Rája's men to the pilgrims, is impure and unwholesome, he should of course be required to

make better arrangements for the preparation and sale of the food. The *Hindustán* advises the Rája to appoint men for its preparation with the consent of the pilgrims.

### RAILWAY.

that at the arrival or departure of a train from the railway-station at Amritsar, all traffic is stopped on each occasion for nearly ten minutes on the two roads, which cross the railway at short distances from the station. The detention causes much inconvenience to the people, particularly to those who have any urgent business to attend to; and the block in traffic causes accidents. Sometimes horses are frightened by the train and throw the riders on the ground; and sometimes one carriage runs into another. It would be well if bridges, like the one constructed to the west of the Lahore station, were built over the two roads that lie near the Amritsar station.

The same paper complains that only one carriage for women a commodation for feron is attached to a train, even when the male passengers on the number of female passengers is unsually large, and urges that arrangements should be made for providing more accommodation on such occasions.

Circulation, 500 copies.

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